



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 26, 1996

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *dd*

RE: Site Inspection, Western Clay Company, Hebe Gypsum Mine, S/015/072, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 19, 1996
Time of Inspection: 0930 - 1250
Conditions: Partly cloudy, warm
Participants: Neal Mortensen, Western Clay; Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To examine the site disturbance which is believed to exceed five acres

The inspection began by driving in to the mine operations. This drive took us over the county road, a portion of mine access road on a state section, and another portion of mine access road on BLM land. Neal pointed out a number of "soft spots" in the access road. Some of these spots had been filled in with limestone gravels to reduce the chuck hole effect.

Neal mentioned that Western Clay intends to improve the mine access road (off the county road) once their right-of-way (ROW) with the BLM and plan are approved. The ROW is for a 24-foot wide haul road within a 30-foot wide corridor. Neal estimated it would take approximately six months to construct the new road. The current mine access road is the main source of disturbance exceeding five acres. The access road is described as being 11 feet wide in the approved notice. The current access road is approximately 14 feet wide at the time of this inspection. I informed Neal that the Division would include the new access road as part of the disturbed area associated with the small mine operation or the proposed large mining operation. Once the BLM approves of the ROW the road disturbance becomes separate from the disturbance associated with the notice under their regulations.

During the drive to the mine there were several truck turnouts and/or turnarounds evident off the access road. I do not believe these turnouts had been included in the BLM's estimate of the road disturbance and total project disturbance.

The 48" culvert shown on the mine map is actually a 42" culvert at the site. The 20" culvert at the site is currently blocked with material from the wider road. Neal plans to extend the 20" culvert to keep road debris from blocking it. Driving into the mine the salvaged cryptogamic soils are stockpiled on the right. Further towards the mine and also on the right is the stockpiled soils.



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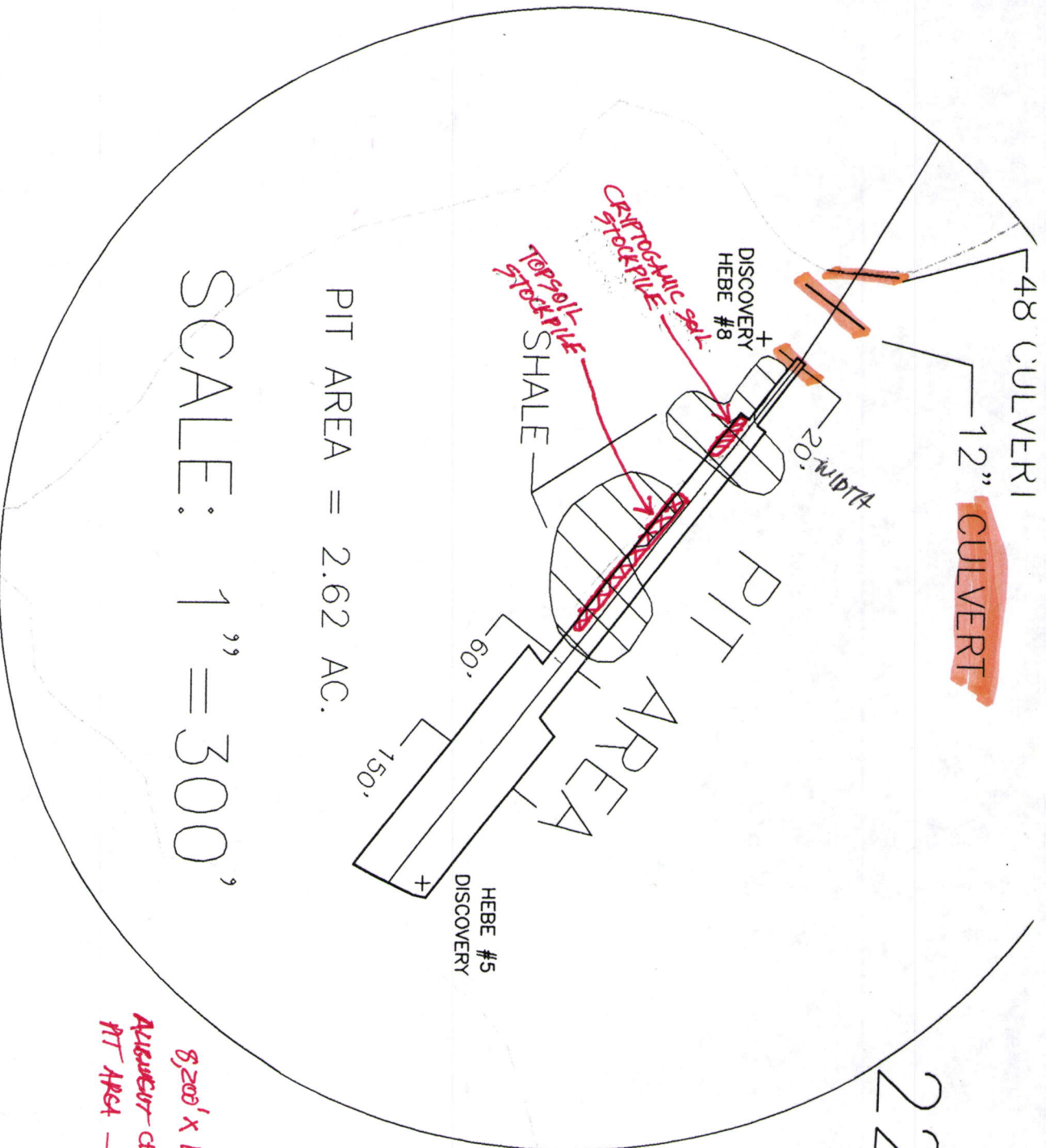
At the mine, Neal described the mining which had taken place at the site to date, and also the possible future mining at the site. They have been using a road reclaimer to mine the gypsum in the pit. The current pit has gone several feet deeper than originally planned. Neal pointed out the poorer grade gypsum at the bottom of the pit using the highwall as a geologic section. The preferred direction of future mining is to move to the east-southeast across a wash. Crossing this wash could complicate the operations and require some extra time; therefore, Neal is also looking at the gypsum to the south-southwest. A culvert of 100+ feet in length may be needed to cross the large wash. I mentioned a french drain system or the drawbacks of an impounding structure as options to look into in discussions with the BLM. Photographs were taken of the current mine site and adjacent areas.

In conclusion, we discussed the Division's handling of this operation exceeding five acres. I told Neal I would write up a memo documenting this inspection and provide him with a copy. Western Clay should not expand the disturbed footprint at the site until the Division & BLM both grant approval. The Division would be sending out a registered letter to Western Clay describing the measures to be taken to deal with this noncompliance situation. The measures may include: (1) No additional expansion of the disturbed area at the site. (2) No additional mining conducted at the site; however, stockpiled materials could be removed. (3) The initial submission of a Large Mining Operation Notice of Intention (LMO-NOI) to the Division within a specified amount of time. (4) No additional expansion of the disturbed area until the Large Mine Operations Notice of Intention is approved and a reclamation surety posted.

Neal showed me a copy of a letter from the BLM dated June 14, 1996, regarding a Notice of Decision. I had not seen the letter before; however, Neil Simmons had left me a message stating that Western Clay had exceeded five acres. The Division's measures and actions required by the BLM in their letter are something I will need to discuss with my supervisor.

jb
cc: Neal Mortensen, Western Clay Company
Neil Simmons, BLM
S15-72.ins

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NOTES

- USE SHALE STRIP
 - DISTURBED AREA
- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|
| 8,200' X 11' ROAD | - 2.07 ACRES | (8) |
| ADJUNCTIVE CHASE | + 0.19 ACRES | (A) |
| MT AREA | + 2.62 ACRES | (P) |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 4.88 ACRES | (T) |

3/015/072